THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Universalisation of Primary Education

1552. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to universalise the Primary Education;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) what are the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(d) whether any tentative period for universalisation of Primary Education has been fixed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) It is already an accepted policy of the Government in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution, that all children should get free and compulsory education till they complete 14 years of age. The National Policy on Education 1986 recommended that this should be achieved by 1995. Government is making requisite endeavour to provide Universal elementary education and some of the main steps being taken to achieve this goal are:—

(i) the provision of primary schools within 1 km. walking distance from all habitations with a population of 300. In the cse of SC/ST habitations. the norms is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200;

(ii) improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(iii) programmes of part-time Non-Formal Education to school dropouts, girls, working children who cannot attend whole day schools;

(iv) establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(v) Provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;

(vi) provision of upper primary schools and upgrading of primary schools to upper primary level according to the norms.

Holding of Afro-Asian Games

1553. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 172 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 1991 and state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on hosting Afro-Asian Games in the country next year; and

(b) whether Government propose to keep in view the current constraint on resources while considering the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE